

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

In re:  City of Detroit, Michigan,  Debtor.	Bankruptcy Case No. 13-53846  Judge Thomas J. Tucker  Chapter 9
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**THE CITY OF DETROIT'S REPLY TO THE OBJECTION BY AGAR  
LAWN SPRINKLER SYSTEMS, INC. TO DEBTOR'S FORTY-SEVENTH  
OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO CERTAIN CLAIMS**

The City of Detroit (“City”), by its undersigned counsel, files this reply to the objection by Agar Lawn Sprinkler Systems, Inc. to Debtor’s Forty-Seventh Omnibus Objection to Certain Claims [Doc. Nos. 11450 & 11451] (“Response”).

**I. Introduction**

1. The City’s objection to the proof of claim filed by Agar Lawn Sprinkler Systems Inc. (“Agar”) should be sustained. Agar’s claim is entirely unsupported with credible documentation. In most instances it also lacks basic information such as invoice numbers. This is likely because Agar has systematically overbilled the City while not performing the services it claims it is owed money for. As such, the Court should sustain the City’s objection to Agar’s claim.

**II. Background**

2. On July 28, 2016, the City filed its Forty-Seventh Omnibus Objection to Certain Claims [Doc. No. 11399] (“Objection”).

3. On September 9, 2016, the Court entered an order sustaining the Objection except for three unresolved proofs of claim, including claim number 776 filed Agar (“Agar Claim”).<sup>1</sup> The Agar Claim is attached as Exhibit 1.

4. The hearing on the Agar Claim has been adjourned multiple times by this Court due to a pending preference action filed by the City against Agar, adversary proceeding number 15-05299 (“Adversary Proceeding”). [Doc. Nos. 11476, 11616, 11700, 11807, 11902].

5. On August 3, 2017, the City filed the Notice of Settlement Pursuant to Local Bankruptcy Rule 9019-1 in the Adversary Proceeding. The Agar Claim remains unresolved.

6. As set forth in the Objection, the City objected to the Agar Claim because Agar overcharged the City and did not perform the represented services. *See* Objection at page 16 of 22.

7. In its response, Agar asserted that all of its work was approved and accepted without any claim of overcharging or that the work was not completed. Response, pp. 1-2. Agar further asserted that it was “simply another victim of the City’s financial mess and who was not paid for work completed in good faith on an emergency basis.” Response, p. 2.

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<sup>1</sup> The Court entered orders resolving the other two proofs of claim. [Doc. Nos. 11636 & 11675].

### III. Argument

8. Agar's arguments lack merit. As explained by Angela Hipps, a manager with the City's General Services Department ("GSD"), the Agar Claim should be expunged because it is unsupported and Agar has failed to perform the claimed services. The Declaration of Angela Hipps ("Hipps Decl.") is attached as Exhibit 2.

9. Included in the Agar Claim is a summary of amounts that Agar claims represent unpaid invoices. Agar Claim, p. 2; Hipps Decl. ¶ 8. The Agar Claim only contains three invoice numbers, however. *Id.*; Hipps Decl. ¶ 9. The remaining entries on the Agar Claim do not provide information to substantiate the Agar Claim. Each entry contains no more than (a) a cryptic statement that may indicate a City department of function Agar claims owes it money, (2) the year in which services allegedly were provided or billed, and (3) a dollar amount claimed. *Id.*; Hipps Decl. ¶ 10. All of the entries other than the one noted above lack invoice numbers. *Id.* Agar did not attach copies of any invoices to the Agar Claim. *Id.*

10. For the entries that lack invoice numbers or even dates and service descriptions, there is no way for the City to verify that any amount is owed, much less the amount claimed. Hipps Decl. ¶ 11. There is no way to determine (1) whether any invoices were ever issued in the amounts alleged, (2) what the alleged services might have been that would justify these amounts or where and when they

might have been provided, or (3) whether the amount asserted might already have been paid by the City. *Id.*

11. The City also has reason to believe that the amounts asserted by Agar were likely fabricated or inflated. Hipps Decl. ¶ 12. Soon after Ms. Hipps began her tenure with GSD, she received questions from colleagues over the amounts that Agar was billing for services. *Id.* ¶ 13.

12. As an example of these concerns, Building Maintenance Supervisor Johnnie Haynes discussed with Ms. Hipps an Agar invoice. *Id.* ¶ 14. Mr. Haynes told Ms. Hipps that someone had broken into one of the City's trucks and had stolen items needed to turn on water to a building. Mr. Haynes had asked Agar to handle this request. *Id.* Mr. Haynes said that Agar had dispatched a technician who turned on the water in under five minutes while he watched. *Id.* Later, Mr. Haynes received an invoice claiming that four men had been involved and had each spent four hours on the problem. *Id.*

13. A number of Ms. Hipps' colleagues observed that many invoices from Agar asserted that four men had provided four hours of labor each, regardless of the nature of the job in question. *Id.* ¶ 15. Because of these concerns, Brad Dick, Director of GSD, asked Ms. Hipps to supervise work assigned to Agar. *Id.* ¶ 16.

14. An opportunity to witness a repair presented itself on June 20, 2013. *Id.* ¶ 17. A sprinkler head was stuck on and was flooding an area on Madison

Avenue. *Id.* Ms. Hipps contacted Agar that day and asked them to repair it. *Id.* They agreed to repair it the next day, Friday, June 21, as they would be working at Grand Circus Park nearby. *Id.* Ms. Hipps was to meet them at noon. *Id.*

15. Agar's technician arrived and changed out a solenoid and a faulty valve and turned the water back on. *Id.* ¶ 18. In Ms. Hipps' experience, such a repair should normally take no more than two hours for one person to complete. *Id.* The next Monday, June 24, Karen Agar from Agar emailed invoice #412 to the City for the work that had been done. *Id.* ¶ 19. The invoice was for \$496.30, \$416.00 of which was for labor. *Id.* There was no breakout for how the figure for labor had been determined. *Id.*

16. When Ms. Hipps requested a breakout of hours, Agar responded that three men had each worked four hours on the job for a total of 16 hours at \$26 per hour. *Id.* ¶ 20. Ms. Hipps pointed out that this math did not work. *Id.* The next day, June 25, Agar emailed a revised invoice showing that that four men had been present, not three. *Id.*

17. Also on June 25, Ms. Hipps witnessed another service request to West Grand Circus. *Id.* ¶ 21. Agar had said that it would start work at 8:00 a.m. *Id.* Ms. Hipps arrived at 8:00 a.m. at the job site and waited for Agar's people to arrive. *Id.* The first irrigation person showed up at 9:25 a.m., identified himself as "Steve," and said that others were on the way. *Id.* ¶ 22. Ultimately, four people

showed up, including the owner Bob Agar, at various times between 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. *Id.* ¶ 23. None of them had contacted Municipal Parking to get access to the job site. *Id.* ¶ 23. It was their responsibility to do so, and because they had not, they could not enter to conduct the scheduled repairs. *Id.* ¶ 23.

18. Bob Agar told Ms. Hipps they would return the next day, June 26. *Id.* ¶ 24. Ms. Hipps stated there should not be a charge for June 25 since no work had been done. *Id.* Bob told Ms. Hipps that he intended to charge for four people's time starting at 8:00 a.m. that morning because they had left their shop at 8:00 a.m., went to retrieve parts, and so forth. *Id.* Ms. Hipps told him that she would not approve an invoice where no actual work had been done. *Id.*

19. Ms. Hipps asked Bob at what time Agar would arrive tomorrow. *Id.* ¶ 26. Bob said they would return at 9:00 a.m. *Id.* He appeared very angry. *Id.* He and his team then left. *Id.* That afternoon, the City received an email from Bob canceling the June 26 repair appointment. *Id.* ¶ 27.

20. Over the next few days, Ms. Hipps exchanged emails with Bob regarding his invoice for the Madison Avenue repair. *Id.* ¶ 28. He insisted that Agar spent 16 hours on the job, stating that the time included the initial contact, scheduling, invoicing, pre-meeting and actual meeting time, research, parts procurement, and "pure man hours" in addition to the actual repair time. *Id.* In

Ms. Hipps' experience, irrigation specialists set an hourly rate that covers these overhead items and bill only for the time that they actually spend on the job. *Id.*

21. Ultimately, the City terminated its contract with Agar. *Id.* ¶ 29.

22. Based on Ms. Hipps' experience with Agar and on conversations Ms. Hipps had with other current and former City employees, Agar likely overbilled the City for services for years. As such, the City has no reason to trust any invoice from Agar.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

23. The Court should sustain the City's objection. The Agar Claim is unsupported by credible documentation. Agar also overbilled of the City while not performing the represented services. The City does not owe Agar any money.

August 18, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Marc N. Swanson

Marc N. Swanson (P71149)

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ATTORNEYS FOR THE CITY OF DETROIT

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

In re:  City of Detroit, Michigan,  Debtor.	Bankruptcy Case No. 13-53846  Judge Thomas J. Tucker  Chapter 9
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that on August 18, 2017, he served a copy of the foregoing ***REPLY TO THE OBJECTION BY AGAR LAWN SPRINKLER SYSTEMS, INC. TO DEBTOR'S FORTY-SEVENTH OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO CERTAIN CLAIMS***, with its exhibits, upon the counsel for Agar Lawn Sprinkler Systems, Inc. via first class mail and electronic mail, as follows:

John D. Mulvihill  
20 W. Washington, Suite 2  
Clarkston, MI 48346  
[jdmulvihill@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jdmulvihill@sbcglobal.net)

By: /s/ Marc N. Swanson  
Marc N. Swanson  
150 West Jefferson, Suite 2500  
Detroit, Michigan 48226  
Telephone: (313) 496-7591  
Facsimile: (313) 496-8451  
[swansonm@millercanfield.com](mailto:swansonm@millercanfield.com)

August 18, 2017

## **EXHIBIT 1**

B10 (Official Form 10) (04/13) (Modified)

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT		EASTERN DISTRICT of MICHIGAN	CHAPTER 9 PROOF OF CLAIM
Name of Debtor: City of Detroit, Michigan		Case Number: 13-53846	<b>FILED</b>
NOTE: Do not use this form to make a claim for an administrative expense that arises after the bankruptcy filing.			
Name of Creditor (the person or other entity to whom the debtor owes money or property): Agar Lawn Sprinkler Systems Inc			
Name and address where notices should be sent: NameID: 11634544 Agar Lawn Sprinkler Systems Inc Attn Accounts Payable 18055 Van Dyke Detroit, MI 48234		<input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this claim amends a previously filed claim. <b>E.D. MICHIGAN-DETROIT</b> Court Claim Number: <i>(If known)</i> Filed on: _____	
Telephone number: 313.475.4283 email: <i>Agarsprinklers@aol.com</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if you are aware that anyone else has filed a proof of claim relating to this claim. Attach copy of statement of claimants. <b>RECEIVED</b>	
Name and address where payment should be sent (if different from above): <i>ROBERT AGAR, AGAR LAWN SPRINKLER SYSTEMS, INC.</i> <i>53520 ODILON</i> <i>SHELBY TWP., MI 48316</i>		FEB 07 2014	
Telephone number: 313.475.4283 email: <i>Agarsprinklers@aol.com</i>		KURTZMAN CARSON CONSULTANTS	
1. Amount of Claim as of Date Case Filed: \$ <u>189,752.63</u>			
If all or part of the claim is secured, complete item 4. If all or part of the claim is entitled to priority, complete item 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if the claim includes interest or other charges in addition to the principal amount of the claim. Attach a statement that itemizes interest or charges.			
2. Basis for Claim: <u>Services Performed</u> (See instruction #2)			
3. Last four digits of any number by which creditor identifies debtor: <u>9185</u>		P.O. <u>4942 or 1984</u> (See instruction #3a)	
4. Secured Claim (See instruction #4) Check the appropriate box if the claim is secured by a lien on property or a right of setoff, attach required redacted documents, and provide the requested information.		Amount of arrearage and other charges, as of the time case was filed, included in secured claim, if any: \$ _____	
Nature of property or right of setoff: <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate <input type="checkbox"/> Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> Other Describe: _____		Basis for perfection: _____	
Value of Property: \$ _____		Amount of Secured Claim: \$ <u>0</u>	
Annual Interest Rate (when case was filed) _____ % <input type="checkbox"/> Fixed or <input type="checkbox"/> Variable		Amount Unsecured: \$ <u>189,752.63</u>	
5. Amount of Claim Entitled to Priority as an Administrative Expense under 11 U.S.C. §§ 503(b)(9) and 507(a)(2).		\$ _____	
5b. Amount of Claim Otherwise Entitled to Priority. Specify Applicable Section of 11 U.S.C. § _____.		\$ _____	
6. Credits. The amount of all payments on this claim has been credited for the purpose of making this proof of claim. (See instruction #6)			
7. Documents: Attached are <b>redacted</b> copies of any documents that support the claim, such as promissory notes, purchase orders, invoices, itemized statements of running accounts, contracts, judgments, mortgages, security agreements, or, in the case of a claim based on an open-end or revolving consumer credit agreement, a statement providing the information required by FRBP 3001(c)(3)(A). If the claim is secured, box 4 has been completed, and <b>redacted</b> copies of documents providing evidence of perfection of a security interest are attached. (See instruction #7, and the definition of "redacted".) DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS. ATTACHED DOCUMENTS MAY BE DESTROYED AFTER SCANNING. If the documents are not available, please explain: _____			
8. Signature: (See instruction # 8) Check the appropriate box.			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am the creditor. <input type="checkbox"/> I am the creditor's authorized agent. <input type="checkbox"/> I am the trustee, or the debtor, or their authorized agent. <input type="checkbox"/> I am a guarantor, surety, indorser, or other codebtor. (See Bankruptcy Rule 3004.) (See Bankruptcy Rule 3005.) I declare under penalty of perjury that the information provided in this claim is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and reasonable belief. Print Name: <u>ROBERT AGAR</u> Title: <u>OWNER</u> Company: <u>AGAR LAWN SPRINKLER SYSTEMS</u> Address and telephone number (if different from notice address above): <u>53520 ODILON SHELBY TWP. MI 48316</u> Telephone number: <u>313.475.4283</u> email: <u>Agarsprinklers@aol.com</u> (Signature) <u>R. Agar</u> (Date) <u>1-28-2014</u>			
<i>Penalty for presenting fraudulent claim: Fine of up to \$500,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152 and 3571.</i>			

-9185

Agar Lawn Sprinkler Systems, Inc. \*reflects payments made

## Past Due Invoices

GSD AND DPW

### Contents and Totals

Pg. 1	Invoices Street Fund/Handwritten	2012 Past Due	\$ 25,381.68	DPW
		2011 Past Due	\$ 19,127.83	DPW
		2010 Past Due	\$ 2,646.00	DPW
Pg. 2	Invoices Street Fund/Handwritten Payment Error	2009 Past Due	\$ 6,169.22	DPW
		Past Due	\$ 2,529.20	DPW
Pg. 3	Payment Error Check Stub			
Pg. 4	Invoices Street Fund/Electronic	2012 Past Due	v	
Pg. 5	Invoices Street Fund/Electronic	2012 Continued	v	All DPW (Street)
Pg. 6	Invoices Street Fund/Electronic	2012 Continued	\$ 90,982.05	DPW \$ 146,835.98
Pg. 7	Invoices Park Fund/Handwritten	2012 Past Due	\$ 656.00	GSD
		2011 Past Due	\$ 13,594.36	GSD
		2010 Past Due	\$ 1,812.90	GSD
Pg. 7	Invoices Park Fund/Electronic	2012 Continued	\$ 9,104.86	GSD All Park Fund \$ 27,472.11
Pg. 8	Invoices Police Department	2011 Past Due	\$ 9,033.38	GSD
Pg. -	Invoices Water Board	2012 Past Due	*	
Pg. 9	Invoices Health Department	2011 Past Due	\$ 2,989.16	GSD
		2006 Past Due	\$ 3,422.00	GSD
Pg. 10	Invoices Park Fund/Electronic	2013	\$ 2,303.99	GSD
11, 12	#410, #412, #413 for requested/approved repairs			All GSD \$ 42,916.65
Pg. -	Invoices DDOT	2012 Past Due	*	
		2011 Past Due	*	
		2010 Past Due	*	\$ -
	Total All Delinquent Invoices		\$ 189,752.63	
	GSD and DPW		\$ 189,752.63	



CITY OF DETROIT  
FINNACLE DEPARTMENT  
PURCHASING DIVISION  
1008 COLEMAN A. YOUNG  
MUNICIPAL CENTER  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226  
PHONE 313-224-4600  
FAX 313-224-4374

IF THIS PURCHASE ORDER  
DOES NOT AGREE WITH THE  
ONE YOU SUBMITTED  
PLEASE CONTACT THE  
PURCHASING DIVISION

### Purchase Order

PURCHASE ORDER NO. REVISION PAGE  
2871984 0 1

#### SHIP TO

see release for actual agency  
Detroit, MI 48226  
United States

#### BILL TO

Coleman A. Young Municipal Ce  
2 Woodward Avenue  
Ste 642  
Detroit, MI 48226  
United States

#### REVISED DATE/BUYER

SUPPLIER NO 1019225	DATE OF ORDER/BUYER 01-NOV-12 B Washington	FOR Delivered
PAYMENT TERMS 2% 45 Days	SHIP VIA Unspecified	CONTR TO / TELEPHONE (313) 892-5335
FREIGHT TERMS	REQUEST TO DELIVER TO	

THIS PURCHASE ORDER IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH RFQ. #1650 AND PERIOD AGREEMENT  
REQUEST

CC: 12-NOV-2012

FURNISH: UNDERGROUND SPRINKLER MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR FOR THREE (3) YEARS  
WITH THREE (3) - ONE (1) YEAR RENEWAL OPTIONS

RENEWAL: THREE (3) RENEWAL OPTIONS AVAILABLE

F.O.B.: VARIOUS CITY OF DETROIT LOCATIONS AS INDICATED, LOCATIONS MAY BE  
DELETED OR ADDED AS NEEDED

PROTECTION OF WORK, PERSONS, AND PROPERTY:

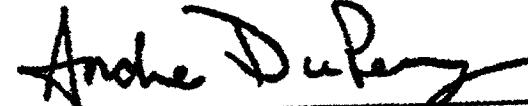
DURING PERFORMANCE AND UP TO DATE OF FINAL ACCEPTANCE, THE CONTRACTOR SHALL  
BE UNDER ABSOLUTE OBLIGATION TO PROTECT THE FINISHED AND UNFINISHED WORK  
AGAINST ANY DAMAGE, LOSS OR INJURY. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL TAKE ALL  
REASONABLE PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT THE PERSONS AND PROPERTY OF THE CITY FROM  
DAMAGE, LOSS OR INJURY DURING THE PERFORMANCE UNDER THIS CONTRACT.

TERMINATION OF CONTRACT:

THE CITY RESERVES THE ABSOLUTE RIGHT TO TERMINATE THIS CONTRACT IN WHOLE OR  
IN PART, FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE CITY AT ITS SOLE DISCRETION ON THIRTY  
(30) DAYS WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE VENDOR.

CONTRACTS AND PURCHASES BETWEEN THE VENDOR AND THE CITY OF DETROIT ARE  
SUBJECT TO FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LAWS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, EQUAL  
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION. THE CITY MAY TERMINATE THE  
CONTRACT FOR CAUSE OR CONVENIENCE. NO CHARGE EFFECTIVE UNLESS AGREED TO IN  
WRITING BY CONTRACT AMENDMENT. ONLY SUCH GOODS WILL BE PAID FOR AS COMPLY  
EXACTLY WITH WRITTEN DESCRIPTION WHEN SHIPPED VIA COMMON CARRIER, MAIL  
SHIPPING NOTICE DIRECTLY TO RECEIVING POINT. CASH TERMS DATE FROM RECEIPT AND  
ACCEPTANCE OF GOODS AND CORRECT INVOICE. PATENTS. CONTRACTORS SHALL  
PROTECT AND INDEMNIFY AGAINST EXPENSE OF ANY NATURE, SMALL, REAR COST OF ANY  
SUITS WHICH MAY ARISE, AND SHALL PAY ALL DAMAGES WHICH MAY BE AWARDED AGAINST  
THE CITY FOR THE USE UNDER THIS SPECIFICATION OF ANY PATENTED DEVICE, PROCESS,  
APPARATUS, MATERIAL OR INVENTION. THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO AUDIT  
EMPLOYEE PAYROLL RECORDS TO VERIFY LABOR CHARGES UPON 72 HOURS NOTICE.

Total 325,000.00



PURCHASING DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE  
NOT VALID WITHOUT AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE



CITY OF DETROIT  
FINANCE DEPARTMENT  
PURCHASING DIVISION  
1008 COLEMAN A. YOUNG  
MUNICIPAL CENTER  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226  
PHONE 313 • 224 • 4600  
FAX 313 • 224 • 4374

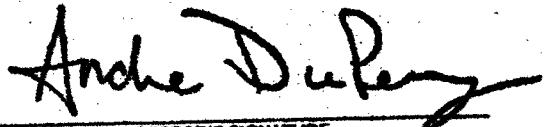
610-0000-0000-0000  
PLEASE CONTACT THE  
PURCHASING DIVISION

RFQ #  
19554

SUPPLIER

AGAR LAWN SPRINKLER SYSTEMS INC  
18055 VAN DYKE  
DETROIT, MI 48234

PURCHASE ORDER NUMBER	REVISION	PAGE
2714942	5	1
THE ABOVE NUMBER MUST APPEAR ON ALL INVOICES AND SHIPMENTS		
SHIP TO		
see release for actual agency Detroit, MI 48226 United States		
BILL TO		
Coleman A Young Municipal Ce 2 Woodward Avenue Ste 642 Detroit, MI 48226 United States		

SUPPLIER NO.	DATE OF ORDER / BUYER	REVISED DATE / BUYER			
1019225	27-JUL-06 C Jones	05-AUG-11 B Washington			
PAYMENT TERMS	SHIP VIA	F.O.B.			
Net 45	Lowest Cost Carrier	Delivered			
FREIGHT TERMS	REQUESTOR / DELIVER TO	CONFIRM TO / TELEPHONE			
(313) 892-5335					
Account of Buyer					
LINE	ITEM NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	DELIVERY DATE	QUANTITY	UNIT	UNIT PRICE
<p><u>THIS PURCHASE ORDER WAS CREATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH RFQ #19554</u></p> <p>CCR: 19-JUL-06, 26-MAY-09, 11-MAY-10, 26-JUL-2011 (CONTRACT RENEWED)</p> <p>FURNISH: SPRINKLER REPAIR, 3 YEAR CONTRACT WITH AN OPTION TO RENEW FOR THREE ADDITIONAL ONE-YEAR PERIODS.</p> <p>PRICE: FIRM</p> <p>RENEWAL OPTION: NO RENEWAL OPTIONS AVAILABLE</p> <p>PROMPT PAYMENT: THE CONTRACTOR OR VENDOR IS ADVISED THAT PAYMENT FOR ANY GOODS OR SERVICES RENDERED UNDER THIS CONTRACT OR PURCHASE ORDER IS GOVERNED BY THE TERMS OF THE CITY OF DETROIT PROMPT PAYMENT ORDINANCE NO. 42-98 ENTITLED "PROMPT PAYMENT OF VENDORS", BEING SECTIONS 18-5-71 THROUGH 18-5-80 OF THE 1984 DETROIT CITY CODE SECTIONS.</p> <p>PROMPT PAYMENT ORDINANCE:</p> <p>PAYMENT FOR SERVICES (OR GOODS) PROVIDED UNDER THIS CONTRACT (OR PURCHASE ORDER) IS GOVERNED BY THE TERMS OF ORDINANCE NO. 42-98 ENTITLED "PROMPT PAYMENT OF VENDORS", BEING SECTIONS 18-5-79 OF THE 1984 DETROIT CITY CODE.</p> <p>THIS IS A CITY WIDE CONTRACT. EACH DEPARTMENT HAS AN INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCEPTING PERFORMANCE UNDER THIS CONTRACT, EACH PERSON MAY BE REACHED PER THE ATTACHED DEPARTMENT LIAISON LIST.</p> <p>THE CONTACT PERSON FROM WHOM PAYMENT SHOULD BE REQUESTED FOR EACH DEPARTMENT IS PER THE ATTACHED DEPARTMENT LIAISON PROMPT PAYMENT LIST.</p> <p><u>Purchase Agreement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DELIVERY SLIP MUST ACCOMPANY EACH SHIPMENT</li> <li>WHEN SHIPPED VIA COMMON CARRIER, MAIL SHIPPING NOTICE DIRECTLY TO RECEIVING POINT</li> <li>CASH TERMS DATE FROM RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE OF GOODS AND CORRECT INVOICE</li> <li>PATENTS — CONTRACTORS SHALL PROTECT AND INDEMNIFY AGAINST EXPENSE OF ANY NATURE, SHALL BEAR COST OF ANY SUITS WHICH MAY ARISE, AND SHALL PAY ALL DAMAGES WHICH MAY BE AWARDED AGAINST THE CITY FOR THE USE UNDER THIS SPECIFICATION, OF ANY PATENTED DEVICE, PROCESS, APPARATUS, MATERIAL, OR INVENTION</li> <li>THIS CONTRACT IS SUBJECT TO FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LAWS REGARDING EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION</li> <li>CHANGES AGREED UPON BY OTHER THAN THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT, PURCHASING DIVISION, WILL JEOPARDIZE PAYMENT</li> <li>CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO AUDIT EMPLOYEE PAYROLL RECORDS TO VERIFY LABOR CHARGES UPON 72 HOURS NOTICE</li> <li>ONLY SUCH GOODS WILL BE PAID FOR AS COMPLY EXACTLY WITH ABOVE WRITTEN DESCRIPTION</li> </ul>					
				Total	4,320,000.00
 <p>PURCHASING DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE NOT VALID WITHOUT PURCHASING DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE</p>					

## **EXHIBIT 2**

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

In re:  City of Detroit, Michigan,  Debtor.	Bankruptcy Case No. 13-53846  Judge Thomas J. Tucker  Chapter 9
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**DECLARATION OF ANGELA HIPPS IN SUPPORT OF THE  
CITY OF DETROIT'S OMNIBUS REPLY IN SUPPORT OF THE FORTY-  
SEVENTH OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO CERTAIN CLAIMS**

I, Angela Hipps, a Manager with the City of Detroit General Services Department ("GSD"), submit this declaration in support of the City of Detroit's ("City") Omnibus Reply in Support of the Forth-Seventh Omnibus Objection to Certain Claims.

1. Except as otherwise indicated, all facts set forth in this declaration are based upon my personal knowledge or are based upon information provided to me by other City employees. If I were called to testify, I could and would testify to the facts set forth in this declaration.

2. I began oversight of the irrigation systems repair and maintenance contract for GSD, City of Detroit, in June of 2013. My position with GSD was Floriculture Supervisor. I have a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture from Michigan State University. I also have training in irrigation repairs, and was responsible for completing all irrigation repairs for the Rogell Golf Course, where I served as superintendent for 17 years.

3. Agar Lawn Sprinkler Systems Inc. ("Agar") maintains and repairs irrigation systems, such as sprinkler systems, such as those used by the City to maintain its public areas.

4. Robert (or "Bob") Agar is the owner of Agar.

5. On July 28, 2016, the City filed its Forty-Seventh Omnibus Objection to Certain Claims [Doc. No. 11399] ("Objection"). As set forth in the Objection, the City objected to proof of claim number 776 ("Agar Claim") filed by Agar on February 4, 2014. Agar filed a response to the Objection on August 23, 2016, at

docket number 11451 (“Agar Response”). I have reviewed the Objection, the Agar Claim, and the Agar Response.

6. Agar maintains and repairs irrigation systems, such as sprinkler systems,

7. The Agar Claim asserts a claim for “services performed” in the amount of \$189,752.63.

8. In support of the Agar Claim, Agar attaches a summary of amounts that it claims represent unpaid invoices (“Agar Claim List”).

9. The Agar Claim List only contains three invoice numbers: #410, #412, and #413. These are listed next to the entry marked “Pg. 10 11, 12.”

10. The remaining entries on the Agar Claim List do not provide information to substantiate the Agar Claim. Each entry contains no more than (1) a cryptic statement that may indicate a City department or function Agar claims owes it money, (2) the year in which services allegedly were provided or billed, and (3) a dollar amount claimed. All of the entries other than the one noted in the prior paragraph lack invoice numbers. Agar did not attach copies of any invoices to the Agar Claim.

11. For the entries that lack invoice numbers or even dates and service descriptions, there is no way for the City to verify that any amount is owed, much less the amount claimed. There is no way to determine (1) whether any invoices were ever issued in the amounts alleged, (2) what the alleged services might have been that would justify these amounts or where and when they might have been provided, or (3) whether the amount asserted might already have been paid by the City.

12. Further, I have reason to suspect that the amounts asserted likely have been fabricated or inflated.

13. Soon after I began my tenure with GSD, I received questions from colleagues over the amounts that Agar was billing for services.

14. As an example of these concerns, Building Maintenance Supervisor Johnnie Haynes discussed with me an Agar invoice. He told me that someone had broken into one of the City’s trucks and had stolen items needed to turn on water to a building. He had asked Agar to handle this request. He said that Agar had dispatched a technician who turned on the water in under five minutes while he

watched. Later, he had received an invoice claiming that four men had been involved and had each spent four hours on the problem.

15. A number of my colleagues observed that many invoices from Agar asserted that four men had provided four hours of labor each, regardless of the nature of the job in question.

16. Because of these concerns, Brad Dick, Director of GSD, asked me to supervise work assigned to Agar. My experience in irrigation would help GSD verify the invoices it received.

17. An opportunity to witness a repair presented itself on June 20, 2013. A sprinkler head was stuck on and was flooding an area on Madison Avenue. I contacted Agar that day and asked them to repair it. They agreed to repair it the next day, Friday, June 21, as they would be working at Grand Circus Park nearby. I was to meet them at noon.

18. Agar's technician arrived and changed out a solenoid and a faulty valve and turned the water back on. I did not witness the entire repair, but remained in the area and checked in from time to time. In my experience, such a repair should normally take no more than two hours for one person to complete.

19. The next Monday, June 24, Karen Agar from Agar emailed invoice #412 to the City for the work that had been done. The invoice was for \$496.30, \$416.00 of which was for labor. There was no breakout for how the figure for labor had been determined.

20. When I requested a breakout of hours, Agar responded that three men had each worked four hours on the job for a total of 16 hours at \$26 per hour. I pointed out that this math did not work. The next day, June 25, Agar emailed a revised invoice showing that that four men had been present, not three.

21. Also on June 25, I witnessed another service request to West Grand Circus. Agar had said it would start work at 8:00 a.m. I arrived at 8:00 a.m. at the job site and waited for Agar's people to arrive.

22. The first irrigation person showed up at 9:25 a.m., identified himself as "Steve," and said that others were on the way.

23. Ultimately, four people showed up, including the owner Bob Agar, at various times between 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. None of them had contacted

Municipal Parking to get access to the job site. It was their responsibility to do so, and because they had not, they could not enter to conduct the scheduled repairs.

24. Bob Agar told me they would return the next day, June 26. I stated there should not be a charge for June 25 since no work had been done. Bob told me that he intended to charge for four people's time starting at 8:00 a.m. that morning because they had left their shop at 8:00 a.m., went to retrieve parts, and so forth. I told him that I would not approve an invoice where no actual work had been done.

25. I also told Bob that after the job was completed, I wanted all parts that were replaced. Bob told me that he did not have to give me the parts. I insisted on receiving them anyway, as I believe the City has a right to the original parts when it is paying for replacement parts.

26. I asked Bob at what time Agar would arrive tomorrow. Bob said they would return at 9:00 a.m. He appeared very angry. He and his team then left.

27. That afternoon, the City received an email from Bob canceling the June 26 repair appointment.

28. Over the next few days, I exchanged emails with Bob regarding his invoice for the Madison Avenue repair. He insisted that Agar spent 16 hours on the job, stating that the time included the initial contact, scheduling, invoicing, pre-meeting and actual meeting time, research, parts procurement, and "pure man hours" in addition to the actual repair time. In my experience, irrigation specialists set an hourly rate that covers these overhead items and bill only for the time that they actually spend on the job.

29. Ultimately, the City terminated its contract with Agar.

30. Based on my experience with Agar and on conversations I have had with other current and former City employees, I believe Agar likely overbilled the City for services for years. I have no reason to trust any invoice from Agar.

31. Because the Agar Claim is unsupported by credible documentation, and because my personal experience with Agar indicates that invoices from Agar may well contain inflated labor charges, I do not believe the Agar Claim demonstrates that the City owes Agar anything, much less the amount claimed.

- SIGNATURE LINE IS ON THE NEXT PAGE -

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

By: Angela Hipps  
Angela Hipps  
Manager, City of Detroit General Services Department

Executed on August 26, 2016